

Application No. 10/765,767

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to a telephone conversation held with the Examiner on December 20, 2005. In the telephone conversation, the Examiner requested the applicant to combine the subject matter of claims 9 and 12.

Accordingly, claim 12 is rewritten into independent form as shown, with its base claim 9 now canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 10 and 13 are amended to change their dependency to newly independent claim 12. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 1-8 and 10-22 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is kindly requested to review these claim amendments, and if they meet his approval, authorize the application to move forward in the allowance process.

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

If the applicants' attorney Dennis M. de Guzman has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. de Guzman at (206) 622-4900.

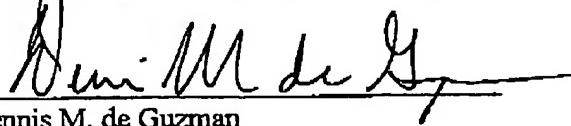
The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

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All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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